



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes*

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## **SBA LOAN ASSISTANCE CENTER OPENING SUSPENDED**

**MIAMI** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that it will delay the opening of their temporary loan assistance center at the Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Avenue in Key West, Florida.

“Based on the severe weather conditions in Key West caused by Hurricane Rita, we found it necessary to suspend the opening of our loan assistance center,” said Frank Skaggs, SBA Director of Field Operations Center East. The center that was established to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Monroe County area will most likely open sometime next week.

At the request of the Governor, SBA has approved a declaration request for the primary County of Monroe and the contiguous counties of Collier and Miami-Dade. As a result of this declaration, SBA can offer loans up to \$40,000 for homeowners and renters to repair or replace disaster damaged personal property such as furniture and clothing. Homeowners are eligible for loans up to \$200,000 to repair disaster damaged primary residences. Loans to businesses of all sizes and non-profit organizations are available for up to \$1.5 million to repair damage to real estate, machinery and equipment, and inventory. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are also available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses.

Interest rates are as low as 2.687 percent for homeowners and renters and 4 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition.

Applications and program information are available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-659-2955 or 1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired. Completed applications should be returned to: U.S. Small Business Administration, National Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline for physical damage applications is November 14, 2005; the deadline for economic injury applications is June 14, 2006.

*For more information visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)*

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